

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: Urban Design Committee

DATE, TIME AND

PLACE OF MEETING:

Wednesday, December 4, 2002, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: JoAnne Kissel, Gordon Scholz, Mike Eckert, Kim Todd, Scott Sullivan and Dennis Scheer
Others: Steve Clymer and Jack Lynch (Olsson Associates), J.J. Yost (Parks & Recreation), Marvin Krout, Ed Zimmer and Missy Minner (Planning Department)

STATED PURPOSE

OF THE MEETING:

Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

Acting Chair Kissel called the meeting to order.

Eckert moved approval of the minutes as distributed, seconded by Scholz. Motion for approval carried 5-0; Scholz, Todd, Kissel, Eckert, and Sullivan voting 'yes'; Scheer and Oforah absent.

Note: Dennis Scheer arrived after this vote was taken and participated as Chair in the remainder of the meeting.

Discussion of urban design elements, Antelope Valley project -

Jack Lynch explained that the scheduling has changed slightly. The major roadway is waiting on funding. The focus now is on the design of the bridges.

The design calls for a 6-lane divided road with 30-38' medians. It will have dual left turn lanes, as well as a right turn lane. The crosswalks will be colored concrete. The 8' wide pedestrian ramps are colored concrete pavers and will have curbs on both sides. Granite pavers at varying heights will be used to discourage people from being in the curb area and crossing at places other than the crosswalks. Walls are planned at the intersections. They will be smooth sawed limestone with a concrete cap.

In an effort to reduce the image of the 6-lane road slicing through the urban core, the grade of the medians will be raised with a berm and a 3-4' median wall that will meander down the center. The medians will be fully landscaped. Granite pavers are planned for 2' starting at the edge of the curb to protect the landscape. Some manicured lawn areas are planned, but the landscaping will mostly be drought tolerant, low maintenance plants.

The proposed design of the north overpasses consists of MSE (self-reinforcing) walls along an elevated section of roadway. The basic image of the stream-crossing bridges (a total of 7 are planned) will be consistent along the channel from J Street (at 24th) on the south to Military Road near Devaney on the north. The "signature" bridge at O Street consists of 2 center piers and abutments. The center piers are brick and smooth sawed limestone. The current design reflects the look requested by the City Administration. Sullivan added that the concept of O Street as the signature bridge came about from its relation to downtown. The essence of entering the Downtown through the bridge made sense. The cables on the bridge are a visual element of the signature bridge and will aid in locating O Street from the

lower (park) level. The cables will be lit from above or below. The pyramid shape created by the cables recalls the skywalk across O Street. The Mayor expressed a desire for more brick in the project. This design concept reflects that.

Scheer questioned the uniqueness of this to Lincoln, Nebraska. He understands the concept of the entrance to downtown, but is unsure how this design relates to Lincoln.

Lynch continued that the basic structure of the bridge is the deck, jersey barriers, abutments and piers, pedestrian walk on outside with a loose railing system. The smaller bridges have smaller piers that don't extend above bridge.

Scheer's interpretation of the location of Antelope Creek is a prairie creek impacted by an urban area. He would prefer a bridge that represents that concept rather than a "fake" bridge.

Todd agreed. She suggested that the bridge be limestone or concrete. A brick facade on a bridge is not commonly seen. She suggested that the cabling be installed in an "x" pattern to eliminate the suspension bridge look.

Sullivan explained that the idea is that brick is a mid-western material. Scheer stated that it isn't an honest bridge. The way it is portrayed is not an honest setting. If this was built, as shown in context, people would question it.

Eckert expressed concern about standing water and graffiti problems on the brick. Cost needs to be considered. Brick seems to be an expensive choice. Clymer indicated that this will relate to the hardscape in the 3-block area. Zimmer suggested bringing the concrete all the way up to the bottom of the bridge deck.

Todd indicated that she liked the bridge concepts except for the brick and cables. She suggested lighting the hand rail. Lynch pointed out that the design of the bridges is not final. There is still time for comment on the design.

Scheer expressed the same concern with the landscape that he has for the bridges - it is not honest. He felt the elevation change could be accomplished by a berm. The landscape materials should reflect the prairie setting. He was also concerned about how this would be maintained.

Lynch indicated that this is in a heavily urbanized area. It was never the intention to duplicate a prairie setting. Sullivan stated that it is planned to have several BIDs for maintenance.

Members reiterated their concerns with the untrue design of the project. Clymer reminded that it is necessary to think past what it looks like right now. This is a redevelopment area. Lynch added that the plant materials have not been chosen.

Lynch explained that the roadway lights are standard LES poles and arms. The fixture is different. The poles can accommodate banners. LES has approved the lights.

The street furniture is basically the same that is downtown.

Between \$2 and 3 million is being set aside for public art.

The other element is the channel itself. Areas for plaza activities, such as Jazz in June, an urban fishing area, a skate park, an amphitheater with seating for 3,000 to 4,000 and an area to be frozen for ice skating in the winter are being discussed.

Sullivan requested a written response from the Committee to help convey issues and concerns to the Antelope Valley committee.

Kissel stated that the comments from the Committee should not reflect that this design should be refined. Changes needed are more drastic than that.

Members asked Zimmer to draft a statement to be considered for adoption at the January 8, 2003 meeting based on the discussion.

Request for Use of Right-of-Way at 1001 L Street -

Zimmer stated that Public Works has asked for an advisory comment from the Committee for the requested use of right-of-way. The building is being prepared for an architectural antiques business. There is an existing stairway that comes into the grassy area along the sidewalk, they would like to capture that space for a ramp. The ramp would take out the grass strip along that area. Public Works did not indicate their position on the proposal. He noted that there isn't anything in the right-of-way along 10th Street.

Scheer recommended the City allow this use of public right of way, and applauded the concept of energizing the 10th Street corridor by accommodating more active use of this building, seconded by Sullivan. Motion carried 4-0; Scheer, Kissel, Eckert and Sullivan voting 'yes'; Scholz, Todd, and Oforah absent.

Miscellaneous -

Kissel asked that the master plan for the Sunken Gardens come before the Committee. It was agreed that this item would be placed on the agenda for the January 8, 2003 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.